



EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV336660051US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Vincent E. Bryan et al.
Application No. : 10/616,864
Filed : July 9, 2003
For : SPINAL NEEDLE SYSTEM

Examiner : Loan H. Thanh
Art Unit : 3763
Docket No. : 170134.401C1
Date : November 18, 2005

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated May 18, 2005, please extend the period of time for response 5 months, to expire on November 18, 2005. Enclosed are a Petition for an Extension of Time and the requisite fee.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated May 18, 2005, applicants hereby elect Group II, claims 11, 14-15, and 24, for examination at this time.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.